The GARZETTE

November, 2003 Volume 12, Issue 10



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Editorial

What's happening to us?

I have noticed an unusually high amount of activity on our 2-meter repeater. In fact, the "round-tables" are more diverse with more and more operators participating.

I have also noticed that we have had some excellent service activities, such as the Kidney Walk and the Berkeley Lake Elementary School Science Night. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, reports that upwards of 700 youth and adults were exposed to Amateur Radio due to the efforts of many of our Club members. Thanks Howie, W9HG, for making the arrangements and rounding up the help.

I noticed the outstanding commitment to serve by other Club members at various venues and booths at the recent Alford Memorial Hamfest—everything from driving around a mobile "Fox" (Gordon, KF4OKA—you were sadistic!) in the youth Fox Hunt, to speaking at forums, to distributing information about GARS & ARES, and no-doubt other activities I did not see which took place behind the scenes.

I noticed the immediate willingness to help a fellow "mobileer" who had just installed a rig in his car—that had a minor technical problem with alternator whine.

So again, I ask, what is happening to us? Did we change... or did *I* change? I believe, because I opened my eyes, I simply noticed what has been going on around me for a long time. I am surrounded by good people who willingly give of themselves. They accept a task and see it to completion!

All the sudden, I am enjoying Amateur Radio and my GARS membership at a new level. Not because Amateur Radio or GARS has changed, but because my awareness has been roused and my appreciation enlarged.

Stephen Covey states: "It is easy to get caught up in the thick of thin things". That is true with nearly all aspects of life. Specifically, we as a Club, have been working our way through elections and other issues that have, to a degree, diverted us from the activities that actually unite us—radio. With Carl Plotz, WB9JSW, having been selected to serve for the next few months as President of GARS, let's again turn our attention to the radio arts and re-double our personal efforts to enjoy each other and enlarge our own appreciation for the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and our opportunities to make a positive difference in someone's day.

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to garzette@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on The GARZETTE by folding & labeling. John A. Davis, WB4QDX, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Paul McInnish, K4BET who manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the <u>24th of</u> <u>each month</u> for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

Newsletter Editor:

Rich Armstrong—WM9X

(678)985-6967 wm9x@hotmail.com

armstrongra@ldschurch.org

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048 Attn: Newsletter Editor

GARS MEETING MINUTES October 14th 2003

- ➤ Vice-President Carl Plotz opened meeting at 19:30.
- ➤ Introduction of Officers and Committee Chairmen
- Introduction of Members
- Program Venture Crew
- New members voted in:

Dave Russell - WA8VMI

Ken Dalton - KI4BQS

Vic Gibson - AI4BR

Brian Page - N4TRB

Gary Bailey - WA4IOB

- ➤ GARS Presidential Election Carl Plotz elected as President.
- Secretary Report:
 - Meeting Minutes for September approved by membership
- Treasures Report No unusual spending
- Activities Report:
 - Kidney Walk October 19th noon until 5:30pm.
 - Science Night October 23rd

Setup time is 6:00pm

- Alfred Hamfest Table charge is \$75.00 Membership approved purchase of table
- ➤ Nominations for Vice President Will be voted on during November Meeting. Other nominations will be accepted during this meeting.

AF4FG - Earl

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Submitted by:

J. Morgan Ringold, KG4PAN

GARS Club Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting

All interested individuals are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Executive Committee Meeting. Presently, these gatherings occur one hour in advance of the regular Club Meeting. The location is in a classroom immediately near the Club meeting space.

Several years ago these Ex. Comm. meetings were instituted for the purpose of saving more time in our Club meetings for "radio talk" verses the business of the Club. To that end, they have been successful. However, some members enjoy ALL aspects of the Club, and as such, are encouraged to come, participate, share insights and opinions! We will all be benefited by the sharing of

For the latest Club news, visit the GARS Website at:

www.gars.org

Club Calendar

- GARS Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. We meet at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville.
- GARS Monthly exec meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. We meet at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2
 meter repeater
- Every Tuesday at 8 PM local time: GARS CW Practice Net with WE5O (not on 2nd Tuesdays)
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 8AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- 24th of each month: Deadline for submittal of articles for the following month's GARZETTE

GARS Elmers

Many of us Hams got interested in the hobby (service) as a result of some influence an experienced Ham had on us. The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924 mobile radio installation

KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715 making QSL cards

KG4FXG, Bill Carter, (770) 339-4531 Mobile CW

WA4DYD, Stan Edwards (770) 923-8770 Emergency Communications

GENERAL INFORMATION:

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354

N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347

W4WKP Johnnie Fearon (770) 207-0020

WB2YAD Duane Reynolds

WB9JSW, Carl Plotz

K4MJK Mike Kovak

K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446

W4ADE Ade Wirth (770) 614-3743

K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Carl Plotz, WB9JSW Vice President

vacant

Secretary

J. Morgan Ringold, KG4PAN

Treasurer

Dan Keohan, KF4YSU

Activities Manager

David Adcock, KA4KKF

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David Adcock, KA4KKF Johnny Fearon, W4WKP Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

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Public Information Officer

Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

Newsletter Editor Rich Armstrong, WM9X

License Trustee

Randy Drescher, K4HS

770-925-9549

Repeater Chairman Eddie Foust, WD4JEM

Tech Fest

OPEN

WAS/VUCC Card Checker

Don Ernest, KS4WR

Net Manager

Harry Holmes, K4HJH

Field Day Chair

Harry Holmes, K4HJH

Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (404)869-1347

Club Meeting Coordinator Jack Shipley, W4UVQ

Apparel Manager

Dan Keohan, KF4YSU

Holiday Party Co-Chairs

Carl Plotz, WB9JSW

Mavis Plotz, N9FWG

QSL Manager

Ade Wirth, W4ADE (770)614-3743

Webmaster

Brandon White, NB5E

Scholarship Chairman

Carter Wood, AG4LK

CW Net Manager

Ron Langston, WE5O

Technical Advisor Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

GARS & ARES

Over the almost eighteen months that I have served as Emergency Coordinator for Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), several people have asked about merging the GARS and ARES organizations. In reviewing the missions of GARS and ARES, there are definite similarities, however there are differences. ARES has a definite focus in providing emergency communications. This is only one aspect of the GARS mission.

ARES is the official American Radio Relay League (ARRL) field organization for providing emergency communications. As such, ARES has its very specific focus. ARES cannot charge dues for membership and is open to any licensed Amateur Radio operator. Locally, ARES members must complete a certification process prior to being authorized access to perform the ARES mission. All ARES programs are focused on training to accomplish the ARES mission as defined in its operations support plans and operating guidelines developed in conjunction with served agencies. The primary served agency is the Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) with others all being part of the Emergency Management response capability.

GARS endorsed Gwinnett ARES as the designated representative for emergency communications within Gwinnett County through execution of a Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU allows Gwinnett County ARES to assume operational control of GARS repeaters during times of emergency and has agreed to allow the repeaters to be used for scheduled training.

Some GARS members saw the decision of Gwinnett ARES to establish a Field Day station this past June as competition with GARS. ARES saw Field Day as an opportunity to test communications capabilities from the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the County Emergency Management Agency endorsed those efforts. The ARRL encouraged this participation by establishing a special Class F entry for those activating EOC facilities. It is only through opportunities provided by events such as Field Day and the annual Simulated Emergency Test that capabilities can be thoroughly evaluated. There was a very specific goal of testing intrastate communications as well as possible avenues to communicate from within the space allocated within the EOC. This included how quickly communications could be established, thus setup for ARES did not start until noon on Saturday. Most all participants in ARES Field Day activities also participated in the GARS Field Day and enjoyed every minute of both.

Gwinnett ARES is not in competition with GARS for membership or participation in Amateur Radio activities. The ultimate objective of both organizations is to encourage participation in Amateur Radio. While the mission of ARES as a designated ARRL field organization is to provide emergency communications to supported agencies, GARS has a much broader mission and accomplishes that mission through a much broader range of activities, including support of ARES for providing emergency communications support. ARES encourages participation in GARS to help promote the many other aspects of Amateur Radio. As such GARS and ARES must work cooperatively toward maintaining a community where every Amateur Radio operator is involved in the promotion of the hobby and in community service as defined in Part 97 of the Federal Communication Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Gwinnett ARES is appreciative of the support GARS has provided over the years and looks forward to continued cooperation between the organizations as we face the uncertainty that the future holds for society and Amateur Radio. We must all "be prepared."

Stan Edwards, WA4DYD
Emergency Coordinator
Gwinnett County ARES

February Club Presentation

Club member Bill Carter—KG4FXG, will be presenting information on the National Traffic System. The N.T.S. is a valuable tool for efficient and accurate message handling during times of communications emergencies. It also is one more facet of our Amateur Radio experience to be enjoyed! Thanks in advance, Bill.

Improve Personal Communications

Have you ever had a QSO that felt like you had to pull teeth to get the other party to contribute to the conversation? You know what I mean—you ask a question and the other guy just answers "yes" or "no" and turns it back to you again. Such a QSO is about as enjoyable as a root canal with no Novacaine!

Here are some simple ideas to help you make your next QSO more interesting for both parties:

- Ask how they got into Amateur Radio. Did they have an Elmer that encouraged them or some event that triggered their interest? How long have they been involved? What aspects of Amateur Radio do they enjoy, such as HF, VHF, digital, contesting, etc.
- Find out where they live or have lived and what they liked about that area. Some people enjoy having an atlas handy in the ham shack so they can look up the location of their QSO partner and ask questions. Tell them about where you live and the pros (GARS Club) and cons (traffic) of the area.
- Ask a lot of questions. This sometimes requires tact.
 Instead of asking "what do you do for a living" you could ask "what do you do with your time when not on the radio?" Be careful discussing politics, religion, and other potentially sensitive personal issues.
- Volunteer some information about yourself, such as family, hobbies, employment, travels, etc. People are curious about other people's "story".

Rich Armstrong—WM9X

October Meeting Program

GARS is the sponsoring organization for Venture Crew 73—a chartered unit in the Boy Scouts of America. Our own Steve Back, WB2OGY, serves as the adult Crew leader.

October's GARS Club meeting featured a PowerPoint presentation of the activities the youth of Crew 73 have participated in during the past year. Events included but were not limited to: campouts, large-scale encampments involving competitions with other Venture Crews throughout the Southeast, service projects, etc.

Some of our Crew members are already Amateur Radio licensees and others are working toward that end. Thanks to all those who are involved in this great program and for the entertaining evening.

Other

Here are some quotes that have tormented me lately:

Five out of every four people have trouble with fractions.

Eighty percent of all statistics are made up.

Some people make things happen.

Some people watch things happen.

Some people wonder what happened.

***** Contact a Club officer if you have a suggestion for an upcoming Club meeting speaker or topic. ****

GARS Apparel

Several items of clothing that feature our Club logo and/or your callsign are available to Club members. These items include polo shirts, sweat shirts, caps, jackets and other articles. Callsign badges can also be ordered. See Dan Keohan, KF4YSU, at the next Club meeting for a listing of items and their associated costs.

Youth and Emergency Communications

ARRL Letter 15 Oct 2003

Amateur radio can be fun for youth as well as adults. This article will focus on a specific twist in terms of public service: emergency communication. Although facilitating emergency communication is, by nature, a serious business, it's an opportunity for younger amateurs who are committed, reliable and trustworthy to have impact during a disaster. In fact, providing emergency communication during emergencies heads the list that outlines the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio.

Although I have never had the opportunity to participate in communications during an actual emergency, I have taken part in many drills. These include Field Day — which is, at its heart, an emergency preparedness exercise — as well as some that took place during a net.

For example, once when I was serving as net control for a weekly training net, Gwinnett County, Georgia Emergency Coordinator, Stan Edwards, WA4DYD, checked in with a scenario simulating a power outage. All stations on the net had to immediately switch to emergency power. Another time, the repeater was turned off, and we had to move to

Simplex operation. These are the kinds of things you might encounter during a true emergency situation.

During the recent ARRL sponsored Simulated Emergency Test (SET), Gwinnett Co. ARES simulated an ice storm emergency. Early Saturday morning several of us headed to the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to spend the next several hours assisting with communications for this mock disaster.

Due to the heavy traffic passing into and out of the EOC, I found myself both operating and logging — and not moving much — for several hours. Within the broad scenario were many specific situations. These included power outages and "disappearing" net control station.

After the drill was complete, the group held a lunchtime debriefing session, where we discussed the many "lessons learned." (These kinds of meetings also follow ARES participation in real emergencies. It's a way of learning from your mistakes so things will run more smoothly or efficiently next time the organization is called upon to assist.)

I have completed the ARRL on-line Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 course. I learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. See the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Web page for information on the Level II and III courses as well as other on-line courses. One thing that I like about emergency communications is that it keeps you on your toes, so that you are always thinking.

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM

Editor's note: Fourteen-year-old Extra-class operator, ARES and GARS member Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, resides in Grayson, Georgia. Her Amateur Radio activites include public service, kit building, hamfesting, and operating SSB, CW and digital modes.

What e'er thou art, act well thy part.

American Kidney Foundation Walk-a-thon

October 19th found a fine looking group of Amateur Radio Operators (some shown below) assisting in the annual fund raising activity to benefit the American Kidney Foundation (AKF).

Nine members of GARS provided communications for the following functional stations: logistics, 1st aid, water, start/finish, registration plus three roving stations. Heading up our efforts for this event were Johnnie Fearon-W4WKP, Coordinator and Ron Langston-WE5O, Assistant Coordinator.

Kudos to all those who participated in this service project:

Johnnie—W4WKP Ron—WE5O

Win—N1TWX Norm—WA4ZXV

Mavis—N9FWG Carl—WB9JSW

Bill—WB4WTN Bruce—KG4MQL



New Club Members

GARS was fortunate enough to obtain five new members during October's Club meeting. Give a big welcome to:

Vic Gibson	Lilburn	AI4BR
Brian Page	Lawrenceville	N4TRB
Ken Dalton	Grayson	KI4BQS
David Russell	Lawrenceville	WA8VMI
Gary Bailey	Snellville	WA4IOB

November Club Meeting Program

Come to the November GARS Club meeting and enjoy the informative presentation on this topic prepared and presented by our own David Adcock—KA4KKF. The more we understand about our Amateur Radio experiences, the more enjoyable our activities will be.

December's monthly Club meeting is being replaced by the annual Christmas party. *See notice below*.

Your Ad Could Be Here

If you need to sell an item (or want to locate a hard to find gadget) place your notice in the *Garzette*.

We will run your non-business ad for free (space available). Just send your ad to Editor Rich Armstrong, WM9X.

Christmas Party!

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Please come and bring your significant other to our annual Club Christmas party. We will enjoy a catered Ham dinner with wonderful side dishes and dessert. Door prizes will be provided. Additional details are being determined (including cost per attendee) to assure a pleasant evening for everyone.

Where:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 3355 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville (Corner of Five Forks Trickum Rd and Sugarloaf Prky.

When:

6:30pm December 6, 2003



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

<u>First Tuesday</u> Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

<u>Second Monday</u> Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering
Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

<u>First Thursday</u> Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

209 Athens St. Jefferson Meeting is at 7:00 PM Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Southern Skillet 1037 Alpharetta St., Roswell Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM

Talk In - 145.47(-)

<u>Second Thursday</u> Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountian Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

First Saturday North GA QRP Club

Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.qsl.net/arrl-ga.

<u>First Sunday, Even Months</u> WCARS VEC

2:00 PM Johnson High School 3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM EOC Building Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

Second Tuesday 7:00PM

Walton EMC 3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

CA VEC 8:30 AM Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Verone, W4ETN (770)978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC 9:00AM Marietta First United Methodist Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave Marietta David Still, WB4RRD (770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday W5YI VEC

7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn
Headphones Provided! Howie Gould,
W9HG (770)921-8362

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech Student Center
Room 301
David Ziskind, KE4QLH
(404) 966-6864

GARS Communication System

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz) 82.5 PL Tone

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR/Relay

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road*, Buford

Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

*Indefinitely off-the-air



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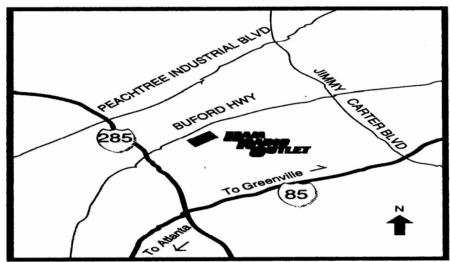
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Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society PO Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

To receive the **Garzette** via email...contact John A. Davis WB4QDX wb4qdx@gars.org





November 11 2003

11th 6:30pm Executive Committee

 $\begin{array}{c} 11 th \ 7{:}30 pm \ GARS \ Club \\ Meeting \end{array}$

No VE Session

December 2003

6th 6:30pm Christmas Party see page 7

Executive Committee T.B.D.

No VE Session

January 2004

13th 6:30pm. - Executive Committee

13th 7:30pm GARS Club Meeting

23rd VE Session